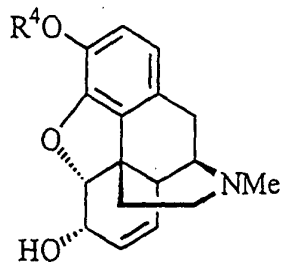
2. A process according to claim 1 wherein said 4,5-Epoxymorphinan-6-ol is selected from the compounds of the formula [3a]

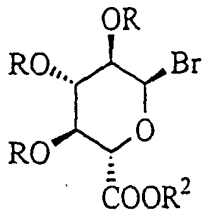


[3a]

wherein
R^4 is as previously defined.

3. A process according to claim 1 wherein said 4,5-Epoxymorphinan-6-ol is selected from 3-O-Acylmorphine, 3-O-Acylnormorphine, 3-O-Acylnalbuphine, 3-O-Acylnalorphine, 3-O-Acyldihydromorphine, 3-O-Benzylmorphine, 3-O-Benzyldihydromorphine, N,O^3-Dibenzylnormorphine, Codeine, Ethylmorphine, Dihydrocodeine, Pholcodine, 3-O-Alkoxycarbonylmorphine, 3-O-Benzyloxycarbonylmorphine, N,O^3-Bis(benzyloxycarbonyl)normorphine.

4. A process according to claim 1 wherein said Bromoglucuronide is selected from compounds of formula [2a]

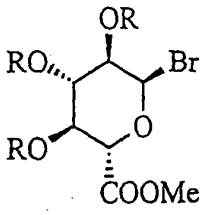


[2a]

wherein

R is acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl or allyloxycarbonyl;
R^2 is as previously defined.

5. A process according to claim 1 wherein said Bromoglucuronide is selected from compounds of formula **[2b]**

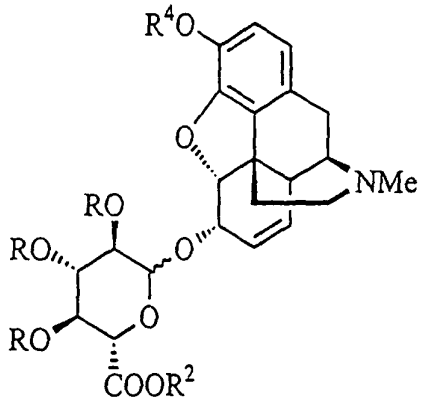


[2b]

wherein

R is as previously defined.

6. A process as recited in claim 1 wherein said protected 4,5-Epoxymorphinan-6-oxyglucuronide is an N-Methyl-4,5-epoxymorphinan-6-oxyglucuronide of formula **[1a]** or derivative.

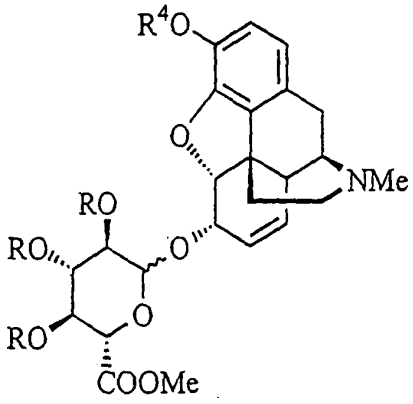


[1a]

wherein:
position 7 and 8 can be olefin as shown or dihydro adduct;
R is acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl, allyloxycarbonyl, benzyoxylcarbonyl, nitrobenzyloxycarbonyl, methoxybenzylcarbonyl or aroxycarbonyl
R^2 is alkyl, haloalkyl or aralkyl;
R^4 is alkyl, haloalkyl, arylmethyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl or allyloxycarbonyl.

7. A process as recited in claim 1 wherein R^2 and R^3 are methyl.

8. A process according to claim 1 wherein said protected 4,5-epoxymorphinan-6-oxyglucuronide is of formula **[1b]**.



[1b]

wherein

R and R^4 are as previously defined.

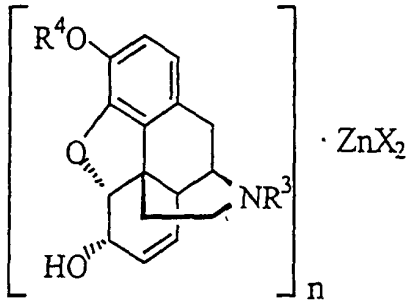
9. A process as recited in claim 1 wherein the said reaction occurs in the presence of molecular sieves.

10. A process as recited in claim 1 wherein the reaction occurs in a non-protic reaction inert solvent.

11. A process as recited in claim 10 wherein the inert solvent is selected from Chloroform, Dichloromethane or Dichloroethane.

12. A process as recited in claim 1 wherein the Zinc containing compound is Zinc Bromide.

13. Use of a Zinc complex of a general formula **[3b]**

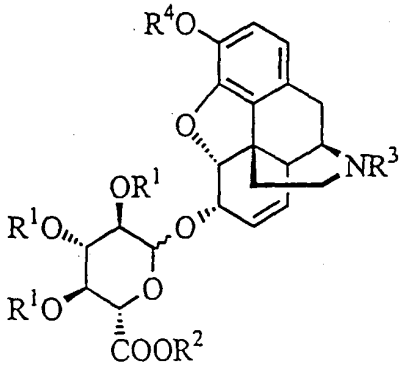


[3b]

wherein

R^3 and R^4 are as previously defined;
X is a halogen or a cyano-group;
n $0.5 \div 2$

for preparation of a protected 4,5-Epoxymorphinan-6-oxyglucuronide of a general formula **[1]** or a salt or complex thereof

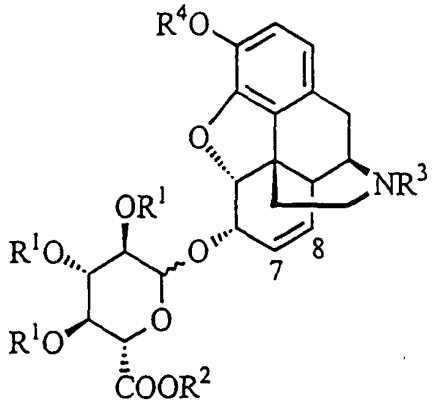


[1]

wherein

R^1,R^2, R^3 and R^4 are as previously defined.

14. A process for the synthesis of a protected 4,5-Epoxymorphinan-6-oxyglucuronide of formula [1] or a salt or complex thereof

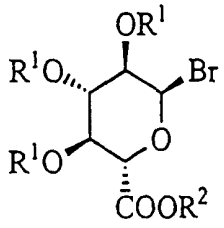


[1]

wherein:

position 7 and 8 are olefin as shown or dihydro adduct;
R^1 is alkyl, haloalkyl, arylmethyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl or allyloxycarbonyl;
R^2 is alkyl, haloalkyl or aralkyl;
R^3 is alkyl, arylmethyl, allyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, hydrogen, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl or allyloxycarbonyl;
R^4 is alkyl, haloalkyl, arylmethyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl or allyloxycarbonyl

comprising reaction of Bromoglucuronide of the formula [2]



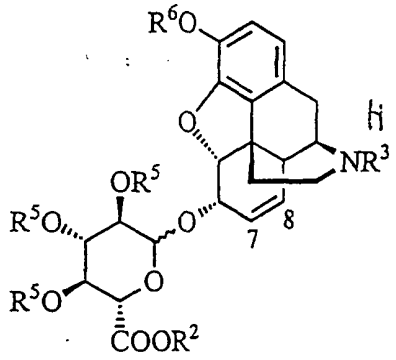
[2]

wherein

R^1 and R^2 are as previously defined;

with complex of the formula **[3b]** under conditions capable of forming said protected 4,5-Epoxymorphinan-6-oxyglucuronide **[1]** or a salt or complex thereof.

15. A compound having the following formula:



[1c]

wherein:

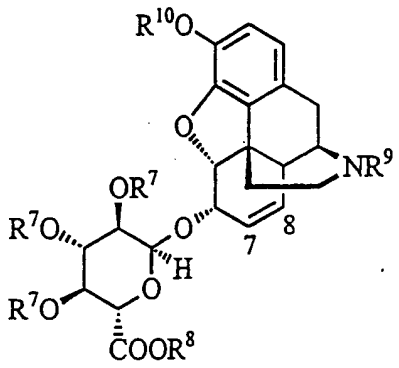
position 7 and 8 is olefin as shown or dihydro adduct;

R^2 and R^3 are as previously defined;

R^6 is selected from alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl, allyloxycarbonyl and R^5 is selected from alkyl, haloalkyl, arylmethyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl,

allyloxycarbonyl or R^6 is selected from alkyl, haloalkyl, arylmethyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl, allyloxycarbonyl when one of R^5 is selected from alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl, allyloxycarbonyl.

16. A compound having the following formula:



[1d]

wherein:
position 7 and 8 is olefin as shown or dihydro adduct;
R^7 is hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, arylmethyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl or allyloxycarbonyl;
R^8 is hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl or aralkyl;
R^9 is hydrogen, alkyl, arylmethyl, allyl, cyclopropylmethyl, cyclobutylmethyl, hydrogen, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl or allyloxycarbonyl;
R^{10} is hydrogen, alkyl, haloalkyl, arylmethyl, 2-(4-morpholinyl)ethyl, acyl, alkoxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, haloalkoxycarbonyl, vinyloxycarbonyl or allyloxycarbonyl.

17. A compound of formula **[1c]** according to claim 15 wherein R^2 and R^3 are both Me.

18. A protected 4,5-Epoxymorphinan-6-oxyglucuronide synthesised according to any of claims 1 to 12 or 14.

19. A process for synthesising M6G comprising:
synthesising a protected 4,5-Epoxymorphinan-6-oxyglucuronide according to any of claims 1 to 12 or 14; and
hydrolysing the protected 4,5-Epoxymorphinan-6-oxyglucuronide to form M6G.

20. M6G synthesised according to claim 19.

21. M6G synthesised using a zinc complex according to claim 13.